



UNITED NATIONS
SOUTH SUDAN



COUNTRY
RESULTS
REPORT
2025





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Foreword

I am pleased to share the 2025 Country Results Report of the United Nations in South Sudan, which outlines the collaborative efforts of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of South Sudan to advance national priorities and promote inclusive, sustainable development despite a challenging operating environment.

In 2025, South Sudan faced a number of overlapping challenges, including a protracted humanitarian crisis, economic downturn, recurrent climate-induced flooding and spillover effects from the conflict in Sudan. These challenges were further exacerbated by rising political tensions and localized conflict. Concurrently, the UNCT experienced a reduction in development financing, as global priorities shifted.

Despite these challenges, the UNCT, in close collaboration with the government and partners, redoubled its efforts to advance South Sudan's national priorities and the Sustainable

Development Goals. Through the United Nations Cooperation Framework, we focused on five collective outcomes: food security, essential services, durable solutions, rapid response, and governance, peace and justice. This approach allowed us to address the country's most pressing needs while laying the groundwork for sustainable progress.

Regarding food security, partnerships were expanded to strengthen resilience and economic opportunities. National cereal production remained stable at 1.123 million metric tons for the second consecutive year, while 790 micro, small and medium enterprises were registered, with 123 of these accessing 2.3 billion South Sudanese pounds (approximately 400 million United States dollars) in financing. Initiatives such as a joint rural development programme with the UNCT, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the government and financial institutions supported agricultural value chains and rural finance, while youth employment programmes linked young people



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to private sector opportunities. These efforts align with the upcoming national agricultural conference, a key opportunity to mobilize investment and policy support for food production and resilience.

In the area of health, more than 2 million people accessed essential health services and 292,163 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition. Similarly, in the area of education, over 325,000 children accessed learning opportunities, while more than 236,000 crisis-affected children were supported through emergency education interventions.

In pursuit of enduring solutions, efforts continued on shifting from emergency response towards more sustainable approaches, including access to services and livelihoods, and social cohesion in host communities. Significant progress is visible in priority areas, including the creation of settlement capacity for up to 18,000 people in Unity State, the return of over 900 former internally displaced persons in Upper Nile and expanded housing, land and property support. Area-based coordination mechanisms are now operational across all 10 states, strengthening subnational leadership and reducing duplication. State Task Forces on Solutions, co-chaired by state governments and area-based coordination state coordinators, are also functional in several states, providing a structure for joint planning and monitoring.

Concerning governance and justice, around 17,000 people accessed justice services and landmark transitional justice legislation was enacted. Women's representation under the National Elections Act increased from 25 to 35 percent.

Regarding rapid response, a government-led cholera programme, supported by the United Nations, vaccinated 8.6 million people, deployed treatment across more than 190 sites and reduced cases by 78 percent in targeted areas, while maintaining mortality below emergency thresholds.

While this foreword reflects progress in 2025, it does so against a backdrop of a highly constrained and complex operating environment, where the UNCT has maintained a stay-and-deliver approach. Moving into 2026, despite ongoing challenges, we remain committed to delivering tangible results for those most in need by focusing on opportunities for impact. The UNCT will also continue to contribute to impact through strengthened partnerships, including with international financial institutions and donors, to better align limited resources with shared priorities. We will also launch consultations on a new Cooperation Framework.

On behalf of the UNCT in South Sudan, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of South Sudan, development partners, civil society and the communities we serve for their trust and collaboration. This report highlights what can be achieved through effective coordination and principled engagement, even as conflict and other challenges affect stability and development. As the country enters a critical phase of its transition, sustained and unified engagement will be essential for translating peace into tangible development gains.

With continued partnership and collective action, we can help prevent further deterioration while strengthening pathways toward peace, resilience and longer-term development. The United Nations remains fully committed to supporting a peaceful, stable and prosperous South Sudan where no one is left behind.



Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho
Deputy Special Representative of the
Secretary-General
Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian
Coordinator
United Nations South Sudan

Abbreviations and acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
GBV	gender-based violence	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ITC	International Trade Centre	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
MSME	micro, small and medium enterprise	UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations)	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	US\$	United States dollar
		WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
		WFP	World Food Programme



United Nations Country Team composition



Key development partners

GOVERNMENT DONORS (EMBASSIES AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES)

Embassy of Canada; Government of Denmark; Government of Finland; Government of France; Embassy of Germany; Embassy of Japan; Embassy of Norway; Embassy of Qatar; Embassy of Sweden; Embassy of The Netherlands; Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Swedish International Development Agency; United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Prosperity Fund; Luxembourg Ministry of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs; United States Agency for International Development; Government of the United States of America

MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Global Affairs Canada; Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Fund; Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Global Partnership for Education; Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development Bank; Multi-Donor Trust Fund; Peacebuilding Fund

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT BANKS

African Development Bank; World Bank

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; German National Committee for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation

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CHAPTER 1: Key developments in the country and regional context



In 2025, South Sudan experienced a year of fragile stability marked by ongoing political transition, economic strain and persistent localized insecurity. National political discourse was marked by continued friction among elites and heightened intra-elite tensions in the transitional leadership, including the arrest of senior figures allied to the First Vice President and ongoing negotiations over power arrangements. These dynamics contributed to uncertainty around core elements of the



Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), including the timing and sequencing of constitutional reforms and electoral milestones. Budget delays, fragmented institutions and political tensions limited the effectiveness of public administration and slowed progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

Localized intercommunal violence persisted in parts of Upper Nile, Jonglei and other states. These incidents displaced communities, interrupted livelihoods and constrained agricultural activity. At the same time, rising inflation, salary arrears and limited employment opportunities contributed to social pressures and heightened protection risks. Youth unemployment, affecting a population where the majority is under 30 years, remains a critical structural challenge with lasting implications for social cohesion and achieving SDG 8 on decent work.

Macroeconomic conditions remained highly stressed. Inflation averaged close to 89 percent from August 2024 to May 2025, rapidly eroding household purchasing power. The cost of the minimum food basket has risen by over 560 percent since 2023, further weakening food access and slowing progress towards SDGs 1 and 2 on poverty and hunger. Currency pressures intensified as the South Sudanese pound continued to depreciate and the gap between official and parallel exchange rates widened.

Although oil production resumed in early 2025 after disruptions in 2024, revenues remained significantly lower—approximately 70 percent below levels seen 18 months earlier—driving salary arrears and contributing to a projected fiscal deficit of 31 percent—575 million United States dollars (US\$)—in the 2025/26 financial year. Public spending on social sectors declined, with allocations to education falling

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from 8 percent to 5.4 percent and to health from 2 percent to 1.31 percent, limiting progress under SDGs 3, 4 and 5 on health, education and gender equality.

Poverty and vulnerability remain widespread. An estimated 92 percent of the population is multidimensionally poor and 79 percent live below the international poverty line. In 2025, around 7.7 million people were projected to face crisis-level or worse food insecurity. Households increasingly resorted to negative coping strategies such as selling productive assets, reducing food intake and withdrawing children from school—trends that threaten long-term human development.

Despite severe food insecurity, some regions recorded improvement in agricultural production because of better rainfall and increased availability of agricultural inputs. However, recurrent flooding and climate variability continued to damage infrastructure and crops, underscoring South Sudan's vulnerability to climate shocks and the urgency of progress under SDG 13 on climate action.

The education sector remained under strain from reduced public financing and worsening household economic conditions. School attendance and retention—especially among girls—declined as families adopted coping strategies that included early marriage and child labour. Given the country's youthful population, limited job creation risks entrenching long-term human capital challenges.

The health sector demonstrated resilience despite shrinking budgets. More than 4 million people were vaccinated during a national cholera campaign and 3.6 million children received polio vaccinations.

The sector's performance index reached 59.66 percent, with emergency

preparedness scoring 75.10 percent. However, workforce density remains critically low at 7.9 health workers per 10,000 people, and maternal and child health disparities persist. Access to clean water and sanitation remained uneven, particularly in rural and flood-affected areas, exacerbating public health risks and limiting progress towards SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation.

Women and girls were disproportionately affected by the combined effects of political marginalization, economic hardship, climate shocks, insecurity and conflict-related violence. Increased exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) and rising incidents of early and forced marriage hindered progress towards SDG 5. Displaced people, returnees, persons with disabilities and remote rural communities continued to face significant barriers to services and livelihoods, highlighting the need to leave no one behind.

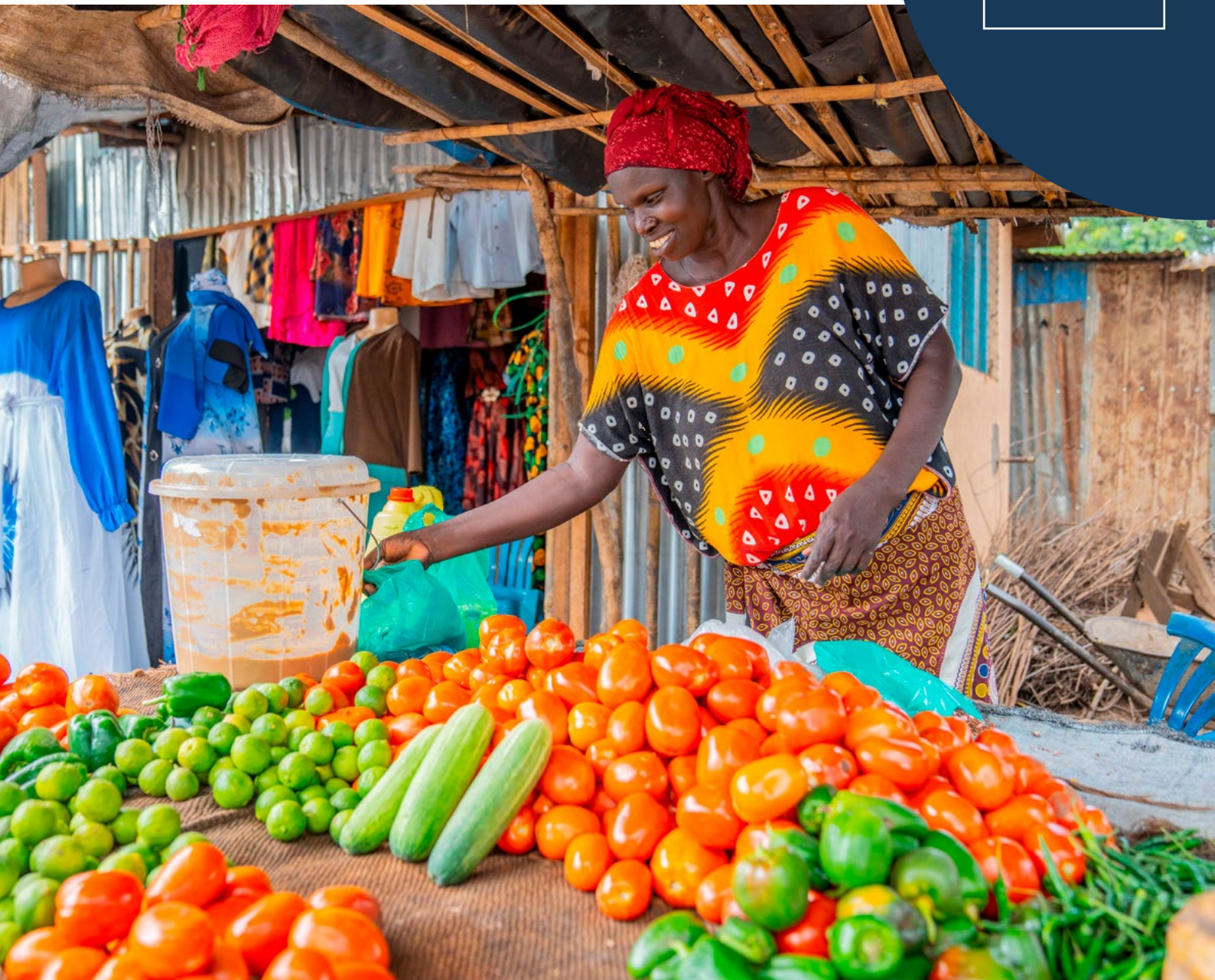
Regional and global dynamics also shaped South Sudan's trajectory. Population movements from Sudan added pressure on host communities and services that were already strained. Meanwhile, instability in the Horn of Africa and disruptions to Red Sea shipping increased import and transport costs in a heavily import-dependent economy, further fuelling domestic inflation. Globally, fiscal tightening and competing crises in donor countries reduced and destabilized development financing, affecting humanitarian and development operations.

In 2025, South Sudan's development trajectory reflected stagnation or setbacks in poverty, hunger, education and gender equality; pockets of resilience in health; tentative stabilization in the peace process; and heightened climate vulnerability. Progress towards the SDGs will depend on accelerated implementation of the R-ARCSS, stronger public financial management, economic diversification beyond oil, expansion of social protection, investment in youth and education, gender-responsive policies and strengthened climate adaptation measures. Despite significant challenges, coordinated national and international efforts have demonstrated that targeted reforms can protect essential gains and lay the groundwork for more inclusive and resilient development.

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Recurrent flooding and climate variability continued to damage infrastructure and crops, underscoring South Sudan's vulnerability to climate shocks.”

CHAPTER 2: United Nations development system support through the Cooperation Framework

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023–2027) sets out the collective vision and strategic direction of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in support of South Sudan’s national priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Aligned with the Revised National Development Strategy (2021–2024), the Cooperation Framework is grounded in the core programming principles of leaving no one behind; a human rights-based approach; gender equality and women’s empowerment; resilience; sustainability; and accountability. It also supports the implementation of the R-ARCSS and is closely aligned with humanitarian action under the Humanitarian Response Plan, ensuring coherence between immediate humanitarian response and longer-term development and peacebuilding efforts.

In light of the extension of South Sudan’s transitional period, the Cooperation Framework has been extended from its original time frame of 2023–2025 to December 2027. This ensures continued alignment between the Cooperation Framework and the evolving national political and development context, while providing a stable strategic framework for the United Nations system to sustain support for national institutions, communities and partners during this critical phase of transition.

The Cooperation Framework therefore remains the central instrument guiding the United Nations system’s collective contribution to South Sudan’s development trajectory, including progress towards Vision 2040 and the SDGs.

The Cooperation Framework is organized around four mutually reinforcing strategic priorities:

1. **Peace consolidation and transparent, accountable and inclusive governance:** Contributing to SDGs 5, 16 and 17, the United Nations supports the R-ARCSS and relevant sections of the Revised National Development Strategy by dismantling war structures, strengthening reconciliation, strengthening transitional justice and building the foundations of a modern, democratic state.
2. **Sustainable economic growth and diversification:** Contributing to SDGs 2, 8, 9 and 13, the United Nations supports sustainable and climate-resilient economic

growth and the development of infrastructure, creation of decent jobs and enhancement of resilience to climate change.

3. **Social development, prioritizing the protection of the most vulnerable:** Contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, the United Nations supports the government in expanding access to social services and protection measures, strengthens national systems and reduces reliance on donor aid to ensure long-term state-led service delivery that supports human development and peacebuilding.
4. **Women and youth empowerment for sustainable development:** Contributing to SDGs 5, 10 and 16, the United Nations works with key partners to empower women, youths and vulnerable groups, ensuring their active participation in peacebuilding and sustainable development.

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS IN 2025

Implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in 2025 took place in a highly constrained environment marked by fiscal crisis, declining external financing, continued humanitarian need, political uncertainty and delays in the implementation of key provisions of the R-ARCSS. Despite these pressures, the UNCT sustained collective delivery across all four outcomes of the Cooperation Framework and demonstrated continued relevance, adaptability and operational cohesion in support of national priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Cumulative results of the Cooperation Framework from inception to the current date suggest that the United Nations has helped preserve development space in an otherwise crisis-affected environment. The most significant contribution has not been rapid structural transformation, which remains constrained by context, but rather sustained support for institutional continuity, service delivery, resilience and inclusion. In practice, this has meant helping national and local actors to continue functioning, protecting previous gains from reversal and creating the basis for future progress when conditions allow.

The UNCT also demonstrated responsiveness in 2025. Programming continued to be adapted to reduce financing and rising need and to deal with shifting operational realities. Agencies increasingly prioritized interventions with catalytic value, stronger integration potential and clearer links to resilience and systems support. The first quarter results of the UNCT-Humanitarian Country Team (UNCT-HCT) Collective Outcome and area-based coordination further highlighted the potential of more geographically focused, joined-up programming to generate more coherent and measurable results. With area-based coordination now in place across all 10 states, there is growing evidence that a more localized and integrated nexus approach can strengthen both relevance and impact.

The Cooperation Framework continued to reflect key global United Nations priorities and reform agendas. Its implementation was aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the principle of leaving no one behind, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, resilience and accountability. In 2025, these commitments were increasingly pursued, not as

stand-alone principles, but through integrated programming choices, stronger coordination and more deliberate prioritization in a resource-constrained environment.

A number of cross-cutting trends emerged during the year. First, inter-agency synergy remained one of the United Nations' strongest assets. Results were strongest where agencies worked cooperatively and combined upstream policy support with downstream service delivery and community engagement. Second, funding continued to be concentrated in social and economic sectors, while governance, peacebuilding and inclusion-related work remained comparatively underfunded. Third, delivery was more effective than funding levels alone suggest, with high expenditure rates in the better-funded outcomes and evidence that the United Nations continued to adapt implementation modalities to maintain continuity in volatile conditions. Fourth, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus was increasingly put into practice, particularly through area-based planning and more deliberate efforts to align humanitarian response, resilience programming and system strengthening.



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The United Nations supports sustainable and climate-resilient economic growth and the development of infrastructure, creation of decent jobs and enhancement of resilience to climate change.

2.2 ACHIEVING COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1



Consolidation of peace and transparent, accountable and inclusive governance

Outcome 1: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youths and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable and inclusive governance that protects and promotes human rights, consolidates peace, strengthens the rule of law and ensures access to justice for all.



REVISED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRIORITIES

4.5.1 Political and legitimate governance

4.5.2 Economic governance

4.5.3 Public sector reform

8.6.1 Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment

8.6.2 Youth empowerment

8.6.4 Capacity development

PARTICIPATING UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES



In 2025, progress towards inclusive governance in South Sudan occurred in a fragile political and fiscal environment. Implementation of key provisions of the R-ARCSS continued but remained uneven, with delays affecting constitutional reform, electoral milestones and the establishment of transitional justice institutions. Leadership turnover in key ministries, fiscal pressures and continued insecurity in some areas further constrained the pace of reform.

In this complex context, the United Nations system prioritized strengthening the institutional foundations necessary for peaceful and accountable governance. United Nations agencies focused on reinforcing electoral and constitutional processes, expanding access to justice, strengthening oversight and public financial management systems, supporting security sector accountability and improving national statistical capacity.

While major political milestones—such as completing the permanent constitution, fully operationalizing transitional justice mechanisms and conducting national elections—remain pending, 2025 saw measurable progress in strengthening institutional systems and service delivery.

The results achieved during the year contribute directly to SDG 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, as well as SDG 5 on gender equality, and reinforce the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by strengthening governance systems that underpin service delivery, protection and conflict prevention.

Strengthening democratic and inclusive governance

Efforts in 2025 focused on reinforcing the legal and institutional architecture required for credible constitutional and electoral processes. Technical support for national institutions contributed to incremental progress in the permanent constitution-making process, including civic consultations and public engagement through the reconstituted National Constitutional Review Commission. Civil society participation expanded, with organizations that included women's groups and youth networks being engaged in consultations on the Constitution Making Process Act and the broader constitutional dialogue.

Advances in the electoral legal framework marked an important step towards inclusive political participation. The amendment of the National Elections Act increased the quota for women's representation from 25 to 35 percent, representing a significant normative shift towards gender-inclusive governance and alignment with global commitments under SDG 5.5.

Institutional readiness for elections to be held in 2026 also improved through support for the National Elections Commission and the operationalization of state high elections committees in all states. Civic and voter education initiatives reached stakeholders in 10 states and 2 administrative areas, strengthening awareness of democratic participation and electoral processes.

Despite these advances, progress towards completing the permanent constitution and conducting national elections were slower than anticipated. Political sequencing challenges, resource constraints and institutional capacity gaps moderated momentum. As a result, 2025 mostly saw the strengthening of the institutional groundwork for democratic processes rather than delivering the final political milestones envisioned under the peace agreement.

Expanding access to justice and strengthening the rule of law

Strengthened courts, mobile justice mechanisms and legal aid initiatives expanded access to justice for communities that historically had had limited access to formal judicial services.

A total of 17,284 individuals accessed justice services, significantly exceeding annual targets. Courts adjudicated 570 cases, including 95 cases related to sexual violence and GBV, while warrant review exercises facilitated the lawful release of detainees and contributed to a reduction in prolonged pre-trial detention. These efforts strengthened due process and helped address systemic challenges related to arbitrary detention.

Justice sector institutional capacity also improved. The judiciary adopted its first Five-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2029) and deployed additional judges to underserved areas, expanding the geographical reach of judicial services. Training and professional development

initiatives strengthened the capacity of justice actors in courts, police protection units and correction services.

Legislative milestones also advanced transitional justice efforts

The enactment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Act and the Compensation and Reparation Authority Act established the legal foundation for national reconciliation processes and victim reparations. Preparatory work for implementation began during the year, including the establishment of victim support groups and laying of technical groundwork for reconciliation mechanisms.

However, key components of the transitional justice architecture, including the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, remain pending. Establishing the newly enacted institutions will require sustained political commitment and financial support.

Supporting security sector accountability and community stability

United Nations support for security sector reform focused primarily on community-level

stabilization and accountability mechanisms in 2025. Community violence reduction programmes supported the reintegration of 1,250 ex-combatants, including women, through vocational training, support for livelihoods and community reconciliation initiatives. These programmes contribute to local stability and reduce the risk of renewed violence by supporting the transition from armed conflict to civilian livelihoods.

Complementary initiatives, including support for military justice processes and civil-military dialogue platforms, strengthened accountability in the security sector. Voluntary disarmament initiatives contributed to community security through the surrender of weapons in priority areas.

While broader structural security sector transformation remains gradual, these efforts demonstrate the importance of community-based stabilization measures in supporting peacebuilding and reinforcing trust between communities and state institutions.

Strengthening legislative oversight and public financial governance

The United Nations also supported stronger oversight and public financial governance, helping to improve accountability at both national and subnational levels. More than 800 subnational officials and 338 parliamentarians were supported to gain skills in economic governance and budget oversight, contributing to stronger

“Complementary initiatives, including support for military justice processes and civil-military dialogue platforms, strengthened accountability in the security sector.”



institutional capacity and improved subnational budget preparation in nine states. These gains suggest that targeted investment in oversight and fiscal governance can deliver results despite wider stagnation of reforms. However, fragility in financing remains a major risk, particularly in public financial management, and may slow the pace and sustainability of reform if not addressed.

At the subnational level, 9 of 13 state budgets were approved, reflecting gradual improvement in planning and budget coordination. The development of a draft public investment policy laid the foundation for more transparent and strategic allocation of public resources.

Despite these advances, the sustainability of some reforms remains uncertain as a result of the closure of key donor-funded programmes during the year and ongoing fiscal pressures affecting public institutions.

Strengthening national data systems for evidence-based governance

Improved national data systems contributed to stronger evidence-based policymaking and development planning. The completion of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-7) and food security monitoring surveys significantly expanded the availability of disaggregated data across sectors.

The National Bureau of Statistics launched an updated data portal, improving accessibility of

national statistics for government institutions, development partners and researchers. These efforts supported the country's first Voluntary National Review of SDG progress through updating approximately 25 percent of SDG indicators. Through technical support seconded to the National Bureau of Statistics by the United Nations, the Government of South Sudan was able to significantly improve its capacity to produce, analyse, utilize and disseminate gender statistics aligned with the SDGs and the minimum set of gender indicators.

While these achievements represent important progress in strengthening statistical systems, significant gaps remain in national data coverage and reporting capacity, highlighting the continued need for investment in statistical institutions.

Despite institutional gains in 2025, several structural reforms remain incomplete and continue to shape the governance landscape. Key constraints include delays in constitutional and electoral milestones, limited operationalization of transitional justice mechanisms, funding volatility affecting governance programmes and institutional capacity gaps in key public institutions.

Land governance, one of the structural drivers of conflict in South Sudan, also saw limited progress in reform during the year, highlighting the continued need for coordinated efforts to strengthen housing, land and property systems.



Sustainable economic growth and diversification

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2



Outcome 2: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youths and vulnerable groups, benefit from and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive economic development, with increased economic diversification, improved climate change adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks.



REVISED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRIORITIES

4.5.2 Economic governance (natural resource management)

5.4.2 Economic diversification

8.6.1 Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment

8.6.2 Youth empowerment

8.6.3 Environment

PARTICIPATING UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES



Implementation was focused on consolidating gains achieved in previous years. Agricultural production reached over 1 million metric tons, exceeding established targets. Producer organizations matured, aggregation systems expanded and digital farmer registration platforms strengthened institutional oversight and coordination. Road rehabilitation and flood protection infrastructure were scaled up further, improving market connectivity and resilience in vulnerable areas. The formalization of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) was increased and financing facilities remained operational, with the sustained participation of women and youths. Climate information systems, food security monitoring and community-based disaster risk management structures continued to be expanded, reinforcing anticipatory capacity and adaptive resilience.

Despite these tangible gains in production and market systems, national food insecurity indicators worsened during the year. Macroeconomic instability, localized conflict, flooding and reduced purchasing power limited the extent to which productivity gains could be translated into improved household food security outcomes. Progress in trade reform implementation and domestic revenue diversification remained uneven, reflecting persistent governance and fiscal constraints.

Strengthening economic governance and market systems

In 2025, institutional capacity for economic governance was strengthened through policy and systems advances. The National Trade Policy (2025–2030) and National e-Commerce Policy were developed and reviewed, reinforcing the regulatory framework for market integration and digital trade. Support for customs automation and operationalization of the Nimule One Stop Border Post enhanced institutional capacity for trade facilitation along a critical regional corridor in Eastern Equatoria.

Infrastructure investments reinforced institutional delivery capacity in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity and Bahr el Ghazal. A total of 665 kilometres of feeder and trunk roads was constructed, rehabilitated or maintained, strengthening connectivity between production

zones and markets. Forty-five aggregation centres are now operational, enhancing structured market access. Labour-intensive works demonstrated strong inclusion, with 70 percent community participation and 65 percent female engagement. While macroeconomic volatility continues to influence the pace of implementation, regulatory and operational systems supporting trade and market integration are more structured and geographically integrated than in previous cycles.

Strengthening service ecosystems and market intermediation

Across Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity, service platforms supporting producers and MSMEs expanded in both scale and institutional maturity. In 2025, 790 MSMEs were formalized, strengthening the transition from informal activity to more structured market participation, while 123 MSMEs accessed approximately 2.3 billion South Sudanese pounds in financing, boosting structured participation in the economy. Aggregation and trading platforms were strengthened, with 53.6 percent of cooperative members reporting increased sales, indicating improved collective marketing capacity and stronger linkages between producers and markets. In parallel, 300 women- and youth-led micro and small enterprises were supported through a revolving financing facility, with 87 percent reporting increased revenue and improved business performance. Over 1,600 youths, mostly women, accessed start-up and financial services.

Aggregation and cooperative systems supported increased sales for more than half of participating members, indicating improved collective marketing capacity. These systems increasingly function as intermediation platforms linking producers to markets, rather than as isolated service interventions. Sustainability remains sensitive to inflationary

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300 women- and youth-led micro and small enterprises were supported through a revolving financing facility, with 87 percent reporting increased revenue and improved business performance.”

pressures and domestic demand constraints; however, the service ecosystem supporting inclusive economic participation is becoming more institutionalized across targeted states.

Enhancing productive and adaptive capacity in agriculture

Agricultural systems demonstrated resilience in 2025, particularly in Juba, Terekeka, Torit and Bor, and across Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states. National cereal production reached 1,123 million metric tons, surpassing the annual target, while nearly 24,000 hectares of arable land were opened for cultivation.

Adaptive capacity strengthened as over half of the supported producers adopted climate-resilient agricultural practices and more than 50,000 producers integrated environmentally sustainable value-addition technologies. Approximately 6,000 metric tons of commodities were aggregated and sold through producer organizations, exceeding planned targets and reinforcing market linkage.

The national Farmer e-Registry, now covering over 1 million farmers, signals an important institutional shift towards data-driven agricultural governance.

Approximately 6,000 metric tons of commodities were aggregated and sold through producer organizations, exceeding planned targets and reinforcing market linkage.

Expanding inclusive enterprise pathways for women and youths

Economic inclusion efforts strengthened structured pathways for women's and youths' enterprise participation in 2025, particularly through financing and community-based market systems. In addition to the 300 women- and youth-led micro and small enterprises supported through a revolving financing facility, 709 village savings and loan associations were strengthened, reaching 21,660 members, including 19,256 women, significantly expanding access to financial inclusion

and enterprise resilience mechanisms. These platforms provided important entry points for women's economic participation and helped build household and enterprise coping capacity in a volatile economic environment. While enterprise profitability remains exposed to inflation and market instability, institutional platforms enabling the participation of women and youths in market systems have been expanded and consolidated.

Strengthening environmental governance and sustainable resource management

Capacity for sustainable natural resource management was reinforced through climate-sensitive community planning and environmental restoration initiatives in vulnerable and displacement-affected areas. Approximately 40,000 seedlings were produced to support ecosystem rehabilitation, including in refugee-hosting locations.

Institutional alignment under the Rio Convention frameworks strengthened national policy coherence on environmental governance. While measurement under this output requires further consolidation, environmental sustainability considerations are increasingly being integrated into economic recovery and resilience planning.

Institutionalizing early warning and anticipatory resilience

In flood-prone and high-risk states, including Lakes and Upper Nile, and in counties such as Renk, Rumbek, Maban and Pibor, anticipatory resilience systems were significantly strengthened. Thirteen automatic weather stations and 300 rain gauges are now operational, expanding national climate observation capacity. Eleven disaster risk management committees were established and 326 members were trained, including women representatives.

The development of the South Sudan Roadmap on Anticipatory Action together with the continued strengthening of CLiMIS South Sudan signal progress towards institutionalized, forward-looking disaster governance. Integration of gender considerations in disaster risk management structures further strengthened inclusive resilience mechanisms.

Social development prioritizing the protection of the most vulnerable

Outcome 3: Children, women and men in South Sudan enjoy improved coverage of inclusive, responsive and quality social services and social protection.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3



REVISED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRIORITIES

6.5.1 Education	8.6.1 Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment
6.5.2 Health	8.6.2 Youth empowerment
6.5.3 Social protection	8.6.4 Capacity development



PARTICIPATING UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES





More than 1.2 million refugees and returnees increased pressure on already overstretched services, while government fiscal space continued to shrink.

In 2025, social development and protection systems operated under severe strain, shaped by major funding contractions in the health, nutrition and education sectors, delays in Health Sector Transformation Project disbursements, cholera outbreaks, flooding, escalating conflict and continued population movements. More than 1.2 million refugees and returnees increased pressure on already overstretched services, while government fiscal space continued to shrink, with social protection remaining below 1 percent of the national budget. In this constrained environment, the United Nations system focused on sustaining access to essential services, protecting hard-won institutional gains and, where possible, reinforcing sector governance. These efforts contributed directly to SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, while also reinforcing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through support for essential service systems that protect lives, reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience in fragile settings.

Health and nutrition systems continued to deliver at national scale despite severe operational and financing constraints. More than 2 million people accessed essential health services during the year, while cold chain functionality exceeded the target, reaching 94.6 percent of facilities, and tuberculosis treatment success achieved 87.7 percent of the target. Nutrition services remained lifesaving but came under increasing pressure: 292,163 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition in 1,045 nutrition sites, representing 55 percent of the target. This shortfall reflected the effects of funding cuts, site closures and workforce disruption, with approximately 15 percent of nutrition sites closed and 62 percent of the workforce affected. At the same time, important system-level progress was achieved through the launch of the National Nutrition Policy and the Pre-Service Nutrition Curriculum, embedding nutrition workforce development more firmly in national systems.

Tuberculosis control demonstrated strong performance

A total of 13,473 cases (104 percent of the target) were reported and the treatment success rate reached 87.9 percent, exceeding planned benchmarks. HIV treatment coverage increased to 82,759 people, representing 57.4 percent coverage, a modest improvement from previous years but still below the 70 percent target. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission



remains constrained, with only 28.2 percent of HIV-positive women receiving antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy or delivery, highlighting persistent maternal service gaps.

Immunization performance exceeded targets, with 91 percent of surviving infants receiving the DTP3 vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, and cold chain functionality reaching 94.6 percent of facilities, strengthening equitable vaccine access in remote areas. Solar hybrid systems were installed in 20 health facilities and oxygen systems were strengthened in national referral centres, directly addressing infrastructure bottlenecks identified in the United Nations Common Country Analysis.

Reproductive health services reached 315,021 beneficiaries, including 41,481 births attended by skilled persons, yet national skilled birth attendance remains at 19.5 percent against a 25 percent target. These figures underscore persistent geographic and gender inequities, affecting rural women in conflict-affected counties particularly.

While 2025 saw continued scale and system strengthening compared to earlier years, service continuity remains heavily reliant on externally financed incentives for more than 23,000 health workers, raising sustainability concerns. While service volumes remained high, important gaps

persisted, particularly in maternal health and HIV-related coverage.

Water, sanitation and hygiene systems and safe practices

In 2025, access to safe drinking water improved for 700,542 people, including 483,436 people through humanitarian response and 118,106 people through rural water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming.

However, sanitation coverage reached only 500,890 people against a target of 904,443 and just 29 health facilities met functional WASH standards against a target of 348. These shortfalls reflect structural underinvestment in sanitation and facility-level infrastructure, particularly in rural and flood-prone counties.

At the same time, key national reforms advanced, including finalization of the Water Policy and Water Bill and progress on the WASH Compact, which strengthened the enabling environment for longer-term sector governance. The year therefore showed some forward movement on institutional reform but also saw WASH infrastructure and facility-level coverage remaining well below required levels, particularly in underserved and crisis-affected areas.

Compared to previous years, water access delivery has remained stable, but sanitation



expansion and institutionalized WASH system strengthening have progressed more slowly. The equity gap between humanitarian water provision and sustainable sanitation infrastructure remains pronounced.

Education and lifelong learning

Education programming helped protect continuity of learning for vulnerable children in an extremely difficult context. A total of 325,660 children accessed and continued learning, including 236,651 crisis-affected children in emergency settings, of whom 47 percent were girls. In addition, 37,527 out-of-school children and adolescents re-entered education, 49 percent of them girls. These results highlight the continued importance of education as both protection and a resilience intervention in crisis settings. However, the broader operating environment remained highly constrained by funding cuts, insecurity and displacement, with sustained risks to continuity, quality and equitable access, particularly for children in conflict-affected and flood-prone locations.

Comprehensive sexuality education reached 101,782 out-of-school youths and 38,361 in-school learners, addressing adolescent vulnerability and gender risks. However, structural outcome indicators remain below target. Gross enrolment remains low at 11 percent pre-primary, 74 percent primary and 7 percent secondary. Learning outcomes show only 39.1 percent of Grade 4 learners achieving reading benchmarks and 69 percent achieving mathematics benchmarks, against targets of 80 and 90 percent, respectively.

While access platforms are mitigating crisis-driven dropout, improvement in quality, transition rates and gender parity remain gradual. Rural, displaced and conflict-affected children continue to face disproportionate barriers to sustained educational attainment.

Social protection systems

A draft revised National Social Protection Policy framework was developed, advancing institutional groundwork for expanded coverage. Integrated cash-plus models reached more than 12,000 pregnant and breastfeeding

women, linking nutrition support with financial literacy and complementary services.

In 2025, 232,844 children, adolescents and caregivers accessed child protection, case management, psychosocial support and GBV services, exceeding the annual target. These services provided an essential protective buffer for populations affected by conflict, displacement and household stress.

However, broader social protection systems remain constrained by limited domestic financing, incomplete national coverage and the absence of sufficient scale to address widespread vulnerability. Institutional reform has progressed slowly, and stronger fiscal commitment will be needed if social protection is to move beyond fragmented or pilot-based approaches. No new national social protection policies were formally adopted during the reporting year, and public expenditure on social protection remained below 1 percent of the national budget. National beneficiary coverage data remain incomplete, and expansion beyond pilot models remains limited.

Compared to earlier years, policy groundwork has progressed, but fiscal commitment and coverage remain insufficient to address systemic poverty and vulnerability at the national level.

Coordination and integrated service platforms

In 2025, coordination mechanisms were strengthened through operational planning alignment across 10 states, data quality improvement in DHIS2 (District Health Information Software 2) systems involving 80 national participants, and integrated public health campaigns reaching 211,479 individuals with praziquantel. Nutrition platforms increasingly linked WASH, immunization, GBV and social protection services, reflecting a gradual movement towards integrated service delivery models envisioned under the Cooperation Framework.

However, several coordination performance indicators, including client satisfaction mechanisms and public-private partnership functionality, remain unreported, limiting full assessment of the effectiveness of coordination.

Women and youth empowerment for sustainable development

Outcome 4: Women, youths and vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4



REVISED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRIORITIES

6.5.1 Education

6.5.2 Health

6.5.3 Social protection



8.6.1 Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment

8.6.2 Youth empowerment

8.6.4 Capacity development

PARTICIPATING UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES



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A major area of progress in 2025 was the strengthening of women’s leadership and their more organized participation in governance and peacebuilding processes.

Progress under Outcome 4 combined a mix of efforts in normative reform, women’s leadership, service delivery and community-level behaviour change in a difficult operating environment marked by frequent turnover in government counterparts, weak institutional capacity among some national and local partners and a severe funding squeeze that reduced the operating space of many women’s rights organizations and other civil society actors. At the same time, protection needs remained acute, with women, girls, youths and vulnerable groups facing heightened exposure to GBV, exclusion from decision-making and limited access to justice, protection and social services. In this context, the United Nations system focused on protecting civic and policy gains, strengthening women and youth leadership, advancing legal and normative reform and sustaining essential services and community-based engagement. These efforts contributed directly to progress on SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities and SDG 16 on inclusive institutions and peaceful societies, while also reinforcing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by linking protection, participation and institutional reform.

A major area of progress in 2025 was the strengthening of women’s leadership and their more organized participation in governance and peacebuilding processes. Support contributed to the revitalization of women’s collective organization at the national level through the transformation of the former Women General Association into the South Sudan Women’s Union, a non-partisan platform with a presence in all states. This marked an important institutional step in consolidating the collective voice of women and advocacy around peace, governance and reform. The National Women’s Conference, which brought together more

than 400 women and drew on a nationwide study of 700 women, provided an evidence-based platform for defining a shared advocacy agenda and electing new leadership. This helped strengthen the legitimacy, cohesion and representative character of women’s collective action at a time of political uncertainty.

Support also translated into stronger participation of women in national reform and peace processes. Women mediators played a key role in promoting dialogue in the ongoing political impasse. Six women-led coalitions were established in Juba, Wau, Yambio, Torit, Bor and Yei to engage with the constitution-making process and promote public participation in consultations led by the National Constitutional Review Commission. Through these coalitions, women’s engagement in constitutional debate became more structured, informed and substantive, including among groups often excluded from formal political processes. Women’s leadership in peacebuilding was also advanced through support for 21 women mediators who convened inter-party dialogue among signatories to the R-ARCSS. This process contributed to a significant political outcome in the form of Resolution No. 3, endorsed at the national level, which reaffirmed dialogue rather than military confrontation as the preferred approach for dispute resolution. The subsequent formation of a national committee with 35 percent women’s representation further signalled growing recognition of the role of women in higher-level political engagement. Complementing this work, evidence-based advocacy briefs and leadership development initiatives helped strengthen women’s political literacy and advocacy capacity, with reported improvement in participants’ understanding of political processes.

At the local level, targeted support deepened women’s participation in peacebuilding and protection processes. In Morobo and Lainya, women from diverse backgrounds, including local leaders, chiefs, herdswomen, market representatives, security actors, ministry staff and representatives of persons with disabilities, received training on women’s

rights, peacebuilding and protection. This contributed to more confidence and greater participation in local peace dialogues and community decision-making. Women's groups reportedly played an important role in mediating land disputes and intercommunal tensions, helping to reduce risks of escalation and to strengthen social cohesion. Participants also reported improved ability to identify and respond to GBV cases, showing that local peace and governance gains are more likely to be sustained when women are supported as community actors, mediators and rights advocates.

Progress was also made in strengthening the legal, policy and institutional framework for gender equality, protection and inclusion. The United Nations supported national and subnational consultations to inform the drafting of the Government of South Sudan's Second Periodic Report and its submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and helped sustain movement on key legislative and policy processes, including the Anti-GBV Bill, the draft Disability Bill, the draft Family Bill, the National Action Plan on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the validation and national launch of the National Youth, Peace and Security Strategy. Public consultations were also supported on the East Africa Community Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation Bill, 2025. While many of these frameworks had not yet been fully adopted or implemented by year end, their advancement helped preserve reform momentum in a context where policy processes remained vulnerable to delay, staff turnover in government administration and weak follow-through. The year therefore underscored both the importance and the fragility of normative progress and the need for sustained high-level advocacy to move reforms from drafting and validation to implementation.

At the service-delivery level, substantial support was sustained for women, girls and vulnerable populations affected by violence and exclusion. In 2025, 124,444 individuals were reached with GBV prevention and response services, including 66,626 survivors who accessed case management and psychosocial support. Safe

spaces also continued to provide support for women and girls in high-risk areas. In the context of rising protection needs and shrinking partner capacity, these services remained a critical part of the protection response and helped sustain access to lifesaving and recovery-oriented support. At the same time, community engagement efforts produced measurable results in shifting harmful gender norms. A total of 153 influential community leaders participated in transformative dialogue, contributing under the Communities Care model to an 8 percent reduction in acceptance of harmful GBV norms and a 10 percent decline in personal beliefs supporting GBV. These results were particularly significant because they point not only to service delivery, but also to evidence of attitudinal and behavioural change that can support longer-term prevention.

Progress under Outcome 4 also included important attention to disability inclusion, youth engagement and evidence generation. Support helped to keep disability rights on the national agenda through promotion of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and validation of the draft Disability Bill. Youth-focused progress included the national launch and dissemination of the Youth, Peace and Security Strategy, which established a normative framework for youth participation, even though implementation remained constrained by lack of funding. In parallel, innovation-focused initiatives such as the Design Thinking Hacklab showed the potential of youth-led approaches to address gender, social norms and climate adaptation. Analytical work was also advanced through finalization and dissemination of the Demographic Dividend Analysis Report, which strengthened the evidence base for policy dialogue on youth, population dynamics and long-term human development.



In 2025, 124,444 individuals were reached with GBV prevention and response services, including 66,626 survivors who accessed case management and psychosocial support.



2.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Through joint programming and coordinated resource mobilization, US\$421.3 million was mobilized via pooled and catalytic financing mechanisms, including the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as through joint proposals to bilateral and multilateral partners.

Financing in 2025 contributed directly to the following key SDG acceleration transition mechanisms:

- **Food systems transformation:** Investments in climate-resilient agriculture, value chains and market access supported smallholder productivity and resilience.
- **Human capital (education, health and nutrition):** Integrated service delivery and school feeding programmes strengthened foundational human development outcomes.
- **Jobs and social protection:** Livelihoods programming and cash-based interventions enhanced income security in fragile communities.
- **Climate and resilience:** Climate-adaptive agriculture and natural resource management initiatives reinforced community resilience in high-risk areas.

Private sector engagement expanded, particularly in agrifood systems and digital cash delivery mechanisms, supporting financial inclusion and market-based recovery pathways.

In a context where humanitarian needs remain acute, 2025 marked a gradual shift from parallel funding streams towards increasingly aligned and catalytic financing structured around measurable SDG acceleration priorities.

2.4 UNITED NATIONS COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Efficiency through coordination and cost-sharing

Resource constraints necessitated leaner coordination models. Cost-sharing arrangements sustained essential coordination functions, while joint concept notes and pooled funding mechanisms reduced transaction costs. Greater consolidation of overlapping sub-outputs improved clarity and limited duplication across agencies.

Reinforcing the Resident Coordinator system

The Resident Coordinator's Office strengthened its convening and oversight role, enhancing strategic engagement with the government and development partners—especially the



Development Partners' Group—and reinforcing accountability for collective results.

From parallel planning to joint accountability
Joint work plans were consolidated across results groups, strengthening outcome-level oversight and reducing fragmentation at sub-output level. Regular results group reviews sharpened performance tracking, clarified agency roles and improved alignment between resources and measurable results. This shift strengthened collective accountability at the UNCT level, moving away from siloed reporting.

Alignment of the UNCT and HCT platforms improved policy coherence and strategic direction. The UNCT–HCT Collective Outcome framework continued to underpin joint prioritization, enabling agencies to align programming around shared results rather than parallel mandates.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

In 2025, the United Nations system in South Sudan strengthened collective accountability to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, contributing to a safer and more principled operating environment for affected populations. Under the joint leadership of the UNCT and HCT, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) remained a cross-cutting

priority, embedded across humanitarian, development and peace actions, despite significant operational and resource constraints.

Implementation of the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment Systemwide Implementation Strategy (2025–2029) advanced through a costed inter-agency action plan and regular progress monitoring, reinforcing leadership accountability and risk-informed decision-making. Governance and coordination were further strengthened through the expansion of the inter-agency Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network, which doubled its membership to 56 entities. This increase included increased participation by national partners, enhancing collective ownership and system coherence.

The United Nations system also progressed in standardizing survivor-centred prevention and response mechanisms. Inter-agency sexual

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Joint work plans were consolidated across results groups, strengthening outcome-level oversight and reducing fragmentation at sub-output level.

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In 2025, implementation of the Cooperation Framework confirmed that progress in South Sudan requires strategic prioritization, stronger integration and greater fiscal realism.

exploitation and abuse referral standard operating procedures and the United Nations Victim Assistance Protocol were used through capacity-building initiatives that reached more than 300 personnel and were rolled out in five priority locations. These efforts contributed to improved reporting, referral and victim assistance pathways, while expanded perception surveys indicated increased awareness and confidence in PSEA mechanisms. Overall, 2025 marked consolidation of a more mature, evidence-based and coordinated PSEA system, while highlighting the need for sustained investment to address remaining capacity and service gaps.

2.5 LESSONS LEARNED AND EVALUATIONS

In 2025, implementation of the Cooperation Framework confirmed that progress in South Sudan requires strategic prioritization, stronger integration and greater fiscal realism. In a context of economic contraction, heavy reliance on humanitarian assistance, political uncertainty and declining external financing, the United Nations continued to deliver results, demonstrating that sustained international engagement can strengthen governance institutions and expand access to justice, oversight and essential services, even in fragile settings. At the same time, the year showed that these gains have not yet been translated into broader systemic transformation.

A key lesson is that inter-agency synergy remains one of the United Nations' strongest assets. The UNCT-HCT Collective Outcome framework helped reduce fragmentation and improve coherence across priority areas,

but integration is most effective where joint planning is matched by shared accountability and aligned financing. The experience of 2025 also showed that underfunding is affecting systems-oriented and longer-term work most directly, underscoring the need for catalytic investments, stronger engagement with international financial institutions and deeper partnerships with national actors.

The year further confirmed the value of the United Nations' technical credibility with government and the critical role of civil society and community-based actors in extending reach and strengthening local ownership. It also highlighted the need to strengthen monitoring by better integrating financial and results data to support transparency, learning and decision-making.

2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.6.1 Financial overview

In 2025, the four Cooperation Framework outcomes required a combined US\$579.7 million, of which US\$421.3 million was reported as available, leaving an overall funding gap of US\$158.3 million. Total expenditure reached US\$389.9 million, equivalent to 92.6 percent of available resources, indicating a generally high rate of fund utilization. Financial delivery was concentrated in Outcomes 2 and 3, which together accounted for almost all the available resources and expenditure, with Outcome 3 representing by far the largest share of both funding and spending (see Table 1, p. 29).

The 2025 financial picture points to three main trends: first, resources were heavily concentrated in social and economic sectors; second, substantial funding gaps persisted across all outcomes; and third, where funding was secured, expenditure was generally strong, though absorption was uneven in lower-funded outcome areas. These patterns underscore the need in 2026 for both more balanced resource mobilization across outcomes and continued attention to delivery capacity in underfunded areas.

Table 1: 2025 financial overview

OUTCOME	REQUIRED (US\$)	AVAILABLE (US\$)	FUNDING GAP (US\$)	EXPENDITURE (US\$)	EXPENDITURE AS PROPORTION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES (%)
Outcome 1: Peace, governance and rule of law	18,164,865	10,773,113	7,391,752	6,801,346	63.1
Outcome 2: Sustainable economic growth and diversification	186,400,201	118,329,205	68,070,996	95,790,668	81.0
Outcome 3: Social development and protection	356,600,721	280,071,788	76,528,933	280,071,788	100.0
Outcome 4: Women, youths and vulnerable groups	18,490,194	12,141,611	6,348,583	7,272,378	59.9
Total	579,655,981	421,315,717	158,340,264	389,936,180	92.6

2.6.2 The Peacebuilding Fund

Over the past year, the Peacebuilding Fund played a critical stabilizing role in South Sudan by safeguarding the continuity of nationally owned peace and governance processes at a time of heightened political fragility. Through targeted investments in the permanent constitution-making process, the Fund enabled the National Constitutional Review Commission to conduct inclusive consultations across the country, preserving one of the country's few remaining nationally owned dialogue platforms. In parallel, support from the Peacebuilding Fund sustained momentum on transitional justice, including assistance to the selection process for members of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing. It also strengthened survivor-centred approaches through victim support groups and safe spaces for dialogue, promoting healing and rebuilding trust in conflict-affected communities. The Peacebuilding Fund also advanced electoral preparedness by strengthening coordination among national security and electoral institutions, supporting joint analysis, assisting with early warning mechanisms and training security and justice actors to prevent electoral violence and promote inclusive participation.

The Peacebuilding Fund portfolio has also expanded the 'constituency for peace' by positioning women and youths as credible peace actors and by delivering tangible peace dividends at community level. Youth peace ambassadors and women leaders supported through the portfolio have mediated tensions, mobilized communities against hate speech and advanced inclusive political participation, even in increasingly restrictive civic spaces. Platforms such as the Gender Observatory have strengthened women's influence in political and peace processes while advocating for protection from violence and greater representation. Complementing these efforts, Peacebuilding Fund investments have linked conflict prevention with livelihoods and resilience, including climate-sensitive livelihood initiatives and community mediation mechanisms that reduce resource competition and strengthen social cohesion. Through flexible and risk-tolerant financing, the Peacebuilding Fund continues to bridge community-based peace infrastructure with national political processes, reinforcing United Nations political engagement and sustaining preventive, conflict-sensitive peacebuilding at a time when other funding streams are contracting.

CHAPTER 3:

Into the future—United Nations Country Team’s key focus for 2026

3



The extension of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to 2027 positions 2026 as a critical year for consolidating results, sharpening collective focus and preparing for the mandatory Cooperation Framework evaluation and the 2026 Country Analysis, both of which will shape the next Cooperation Framework cycle.

The operating environment remains highly challenging, shaped by a fragile political transition, continued insecurity and displacement, macroeconomic pressures, climate-related shocks and significant funding constraints across sectors. At the same time, the United Nations will need to sustain support for national institutions, protect essential services and livelihoods and deepen integrated responses to bridge humanitarian, development and peacebuilding objectives.

In this context, the overarching priority for 2026 is to concentrate on a smaller number of catalytic areas where joint United Nations action can deliver visible results, strengthen resilience and support national systems. It will also require careful management of key risks, including political uncertainty, limited institutional absorption capacity, shrinking fiscal space, continued humanitarian needs and reduced funding for social services, protection and gender equality programming. The United Nations will therefore prioritize integrated delivery, selective scaling of proven interventions and intensified collective advocacy to advance stalled reforms and safeguard critical gains.

Under Outcome 1, the focus in 2026 will be on supporting election preparedness, civic participation and protection and targeted governance reforms that are feasible within the transitional context. Priority areas include electoral readiness, community-level prevention of election-related violence, support of civic space, selected judicial and security sector reforms, land and legislative processes and continued strengthening of public financial management and national data systems. The emphasis will be on reinforcing institutional credibility, accountability and prevention-oriented governance support.

Under Outcome 2, the priority will be to move to a more coherent and scalable approach to livelihoods recovery and economic resilience. The United Nations will focus on consolidating support for MSMEs, cooperatives and market systems; improving coherence among agencies and partners; scaling joint programming in areas of comparative advantage; and





Protecting human capital in South Sudan requires more than maintaining platforms; it requires consolidating gains in nutrition and education.

strengthening connectivity and last-mile access through catalytic infrastructure and market linkages. The objective will be to better connect production, finance, markets and resilience in support of sustainable recovery.

Protecting human capital in South Sudan requires more than maintaining platforms; it requires consolidating gains in nutrition and education so that resilience becomes measurable. Under Outcome 3, the priority will be to protect core social services while improving integration, quality and targeting. Efforts will focus on integrated service delivery across health, nutrition and related systems; more strategic use of vertical and humanitarian financing to reinforce systems; closing critical service coverage gaps, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas; strengthening WASH in schools and health facilities; and reinforcing child protection and social service systems. Given the scale of needs and resource pressures, this outcome will require particularly strong prioritization, coordination and resource mobilization.

Under Outcome 4, the priority in 2026 will be to move beyond policy development towards implementation and operationalization of existing commitments and frameworks. This will require continued investment in the capacity of government institutions and non-government actors to strengthen ownership, coordination and sustainability of implementation efforts. Building on progress made in women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding, greater emphasis will be placed on consolidating gains across initiatives and translating them into more coherent and sustained results. At the same time, GBV prevention and response services will remain critical in the context of funding reductions, requiring prioritization and scenario-based planning. Strengthened joint assessments and analysis will also help make advocacy across results groups more evidence-based, while improved tracking of youth and vulnerable group engagement will help ensure their participation is more visible and better reflected in results reporting.



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United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNDP Compound
Ministries Road Plot 21
P. O. Box 410
Juba
South Sudan

✉ unctcommunications-southsudan@un.org

f UN in South Sudan

✂ @UN_SouthSudan

🌐 <https://southsudan.un.org/>